STATISTICAL SOCIETY.

MARCH 18.—Thomas Tooke, Esq., V.P., in the chair.

The subject of the evening was "The Metropolis, its Boundaries, Extent, and Divisions for Social Government, with especial reference to its means of Sewerage;" being a continuation of the paper read at the ordinary meeting of the 19th of February, by J. Fletcher, Esq., Hon. Sec. &c.—According to Mr. Fletcher, the objects of municipal government in London, as elsewhere in England, are, 1. Police and justice; 2. Public works and buildings; and 3. Public instruction and charity.

1. The criminal justice and police of the metropolis are virtually in the hands of the central government, which issues the commission for holding the Central Criminal Court, and the commissions of the peace for Westminster, the Tower, Middlesex, Surrey, and Kent, appoints the police magistrates, and has the direct management of the police force, through the agency of the commissioners in Whitehall-place. The only exception is the City, which has the management of its own police, and an elective magistracy, who take an inferior part in the business of the Central Criminal Court. The jurisdiction of the Central Criminal Court comprises the whole of the metropolis, as now defined, together with the remainder of Middlesex, the parishes of Richmond and Mortlake, in Surrey, and a considerable tract in Essex; that of the several courts of general or quarter sessions is conterminous with the counties or liberties for which they are held; and that of the several police courts extends through the districts hereafter described, which have been severally assigned to them; in the City by the Court of Aldermen, and without its limit by the Queen in Council. For administrative purposes of police, the metropolis is subdivided into districts, indicated by the letters of the alphabet; in the City by the commissioners under the Court of Aldermen, and elsewhere by the commissioners under the Secretary of State for the Home Department. The courts at Westminster are the courts of civil jurisdiction most resorted to; those of the City have no authority beyond its limits; the several small debt courts are likewise confined, by their several Acts of Parliament, within specific bounds; but the county courts have a more general application. And those of Middlesex are now held in several places, with an enlarged jurisdiction, and improved process.

2. Nearly the whole of the public works are in the hands of local, if not of representative, authorities. The drainage is divided among commissions of sewers, issued by the Crown, like commissions of the peace; the streets and roads are in the charge of the parish vestries, local boards and trusts, and the commissioners of the metropolitan roads; the supply of water and of gas by the several companies is also a matter of territorial division under monopoly conventions; districts for the inspection of buildings in course of erection are appointed by the magistrates; but such works as markets, exchanges, approaches, bridges, cemeteries, the river navigation, &c., in the hands of the corporation, of companies, and of large proprietors, have, of course, no reference to municipal divisions.

3. Public instruction, except of paupers, is not a matter of municipal provision; but the division of the metropolis for poor-law administration, with which that for the registration of births, deaths, and marriages coincides, is one of paramount importance. Its largest charitable endowments are irrespective of locality; but a great amount of gifts is devoted to the relief of the poor in particular parishes and places. Owing to the number of parishes having local Acts for the management of their poor, and other causes, however, the metropolitan system of parochial relief is on no general and well-organized plan, and the districts in use are irregular in the extreme.

For the purposes of drainage, the metropolis is placed under the jurisdiction of seven different Sewer Commissions. The sums expended give the nearest approximation to the yearly income of these commissions, which generally make their levies at intervals of several years, so that the returns of any one year afford but very imperfect data for estimating their average income. The direct taxation for sewers thus appears to be little if any thing short of 100,000*l.* per annum.

Every portion of the metropolis is necessarily included under some trust for the purposes of paving, lighting, and cleansing; but of the limits assigned to such trusts as are not parochial, we are without any information whatever. Their income and expenditure are equally unknown. Some idea of the vast sums which annually pass through their hands may be formed from the cost of paving, cleansing, and lighting in the city alone, for which the sum raised by rates in the year ended September, 1842, was 35,098*l.* 2*s.* 6*d.*; and the sum expended 41,945*l.* 6*s.* 7*d.* Supposing that the average expenditure on these objects in the rest of the metropolis were only one-half what it is in the city, in proportion to the population, it would amount to no less than 329,500*l.*, making a total in the metropolis of about 371,500*l.*; and it may safely be estimated at 400,000*l.*

The subject of drainage occupied a large portion of the paper, but we can only record the following—"The whole of the ancient statutes of sewers provide merely an open surface drainage, and until lately there were still some doubts whether these statutes give to the Commissioners power to make even a new open drain. But with regard to the covered sewers which are now a necessary part of the economy of all large towns, as they were in the civilized ages of antiquity, they give no express powers whatever; and local acts having but partially supplied the deficiency, the Commissioners of Sewers in the greater part of the metropolis have to the present day no power whatever to make a new covered sewer. Incredible as it may appear, it is not to the present day a recognized purpose of several of the principal Boards of Commissioners to protect the public health by the covering of the sewers, from the noisome effluvia of a city's drainage, but only to effect the mechanical transmission of the surplus fluids to the Thames."

The metropolis is supplied with water by nine principal and two smaller companies. By supposing the water rental in 1843 to bear the same proportion to the population of the metropolis in 1841, that the water rental of 1833 did to its population in 1831, Mr. Fletcher finds the probable amount of last year's water rental to have been 344,238*l.*

THE IRON AND METAL TRADES' PENSION SOCIETY.

THE celebration of the first festival in commemoration of this useful and benevolent institution took place on the 19th instant at the London Tavern, Bishopsgate-street. The chair was taken by Mr. R. W. Kennard, one of the Vice-Presidents, who was supported by nearly a hundred of the most opulent and influential members of the trades. Every thing was in the best style. The entertainment supplied was more than ordinarily liberal, and the amount of subscriptions and donations more than usually large for a society in a state of creation, and certainly not yet matured. The chairman was a contributor of 100*l.* to the funds, and by his impressive and business-like address to the company on proposing the toast, "Success to the Institution," caused many of his auditors to subscribe largely. One feature of independence distinguishes this society: it can support itself, and it intends to support itself, solely by the contributions of members of the trades for the benefit of the aged and decayed of which it is instituted, and will not accept contributions from strangers. Last evening several checks from benevolent persons not connected with the trades of iron, hardware, and metal, were returned. This is, perhaps, as it should be, and it calls imperatively on all members of these trades to become subscribers, and shews their sense of independence, benevolence, and honour. The usual loyal and appropriate toasts were drunk with cheers, and the health of the chairman with more than usual demonstrations of good feeling. Mr. Toole assisted as toast-master. Messrs. Hobbs, Chapman, and Hawkins, added their vocal talents to the festivity, which was kept up till a late hour.

WELBY PUGIN AND THE "BRISTOL AND WEST OF ENGLAND ARCHÆOLOGICAL MAGAZINE."

"MR. WELBY PUGIN has made his name pretty generally known, by becoming a convert to the Romish church, and thereby obtaining the lucrative position of architect in ordinary to the Romish superstition in these Islands. Possessed of much cleverness, and assisted into notice by the reputation of his father, he has contrived to escape the evil consequences that, in worldly matters, so often attend those who make change in their religious creed; and cannot, however sincere he may be in his new religious professions, adduce in proof of his sincerity the worldly sacrifices to which, for conscience' sake, he has submitted.

"But with his religious opinions we have nothing to do, and shall content ourselves by supposing him sincere, and leaving his adopted mother to rejoice over the son she has acquired. What we have to consider, is the amount of value to be attached to his writings; and here we must observe, that he possesses the reputation, among Protestants as well as Romanists, of having originated a new and consistent theory respecting "The true principles of Pointed or Christian architecture;" he thus entitles it, though the theory is equally applicable to every congruous and fully developed style.

"'The two great rules for design,' he says, 'are these: 1st. That there should be no features about a building which are not necessary for convenience, construction, or propriety; 2nd. That all ornament shall consist of enrichment of the essential construction of the building.' This we quote from the opening paragraph of the first lecture; the following is from the concluding paragraph of the last. 'Truth is only gradually developed in the mind, and is the result of long experience and deep investigation. Having, as I conceive, discovered the true principles of Pointed architecture, I am anxious to explain to others the errors and misconceptions into which I have fallen,'—he admits having, in the early period of his professional career, fallen into most of the faults he reprobates,—'that they, profiting by my experience, may henceforward strive to revive the glorious works of Christian art in all the ancient and consistent principles.'

"In the first of the passages quoted he explains the discovery of the true principles of architectural design, and in the last he claims the discovery as *his own*. The correctness of the principles he lays down we do not wish to dispute; but to the honour of having been the first to promulgate them, we shall soon shew that he has no claim. The perception of the truth, as is the case with many discoveries, may have occurred to more persons than one, without one borrowing from the other; the time was ripe for such a discovery; many had been travelling on the road that led to it: but in such case we usually accord the honours to the first that makes the announcement to the world. In the present instance such an announcement was made so long before the appearance of Pugin's book, and in works so familiar to architectural readers, that it is impossible to suppose that his mother-wit alone brought him to the conclusions he sets forth in his treatises. Pugin's lectures were published in 1841. In a volume entitled 'Specifications for Practical Architecture, by Alfred Bartholomew, architect, published in the previous year, the author sets down the principle contained in Pugin's 'two great rules' constantly and clearly. Take for example the following, from the Preface:—

"'Pure taste in architecture has, in all past ages, been purely structural; and a departure from this wisdom is the true cause of the taste (or, to speak more properly, the want of taste) in modern architecture being so variable, so capricious, so much quarreled about, and so short-lived.

* * * *

"'In Pointed Architecture, all is structural, from the boss which confirms the arch-ribs (radiating from it, as the spokes radiate from the nave of a wheel), to the wall-buttress, which receives the energy of the vaulting, most artfully conducted down the vaulting-ribs, through the flying-buttress, and inoxiously dissipated on the ground itself; all is structural, from the rudder-like pinnacle,

To learn more about OCR and PDF Compression go to our website